

Virginia P3 Disparities Grant Glossary



Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services

(CLAS): The National CLAS Standards are a set of 15 action steps intended to advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities by providing a blueprint for individuals and health care organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services. The National CLAS Standards can help your organization overcome these cultural and linguistic differences. [CDC](#)

Culturally and Linguistic Competence is a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency, or among professionals that enables effective work in cross-cultural situations. 'Culture' refers to integrated patterns of human behavior that include the language, thoughts, communications, actions, customs, beliefs, values, and institutions of racial, ethnic, religious, or social groups. 'Competence' implies having the capacity to function effectively as an individual and an organization within the context of the cultural beliefs, behaviors, and needs presented by consumers and their communities. [CDC-NPIN](#)

Diversity is an appreciation and respect for the many differences and similarities in the workplace. This includes varied perspectives, approaches, and competencies of coworkers and populations we serve. [CDC](#)

Environmental Justice: All people—regardless of race, color, national origin, or income—are entitled to equal protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. [CDC](#)

Health Disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion. [Healthy People 2020](#)

Health Inequities Disparities in health [or health care] that are systemic and avoidable and, therefore, considered unfair or unjust. [VDH](#)

Health Equity is achieving the highest level of health for all people. Health equity entails focused societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities by equalizing the conditions for health for all groups, especially for those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage or historical injustices. [Healthy People 2020](#)

Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and

contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities. [Healthy People 2020](#)

Public Health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private communities, and individuals. [CDC](#)

Racial Ethnic Minorities/Minority Populations: The U.S Department of Health and Human Services defines racial and ethnic minorities as American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. [HHS](#)

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. SDOH can be grouped into 5 domains: economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context. [Healthy People 2020](#)

Social determinants of health (SDOH) have a major impact on people's health, well-being, and quality of life. Examples of SDOH include:

- Safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods
- Racism, discrimination, and violence
- Education, job opportunities, and income
- Access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities
- Polluted air and water
- Language and literacy skills

SDOH also contributes to wide health disparities and inequities. For example, people who don't have access to grocery stores with healthy foods are less likely to have good nutrition. That raises their risk of health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity — and even lowers life expectancy relative to people who do have access to healthy foods. [Healthy People 2020](#)

Vulnerable Populations are populations who are at greater risk of experiencing poor health outcomes due to social and economic factors. Natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks can pose a threat to a community's health. Socially vulnerable populations are especially at risk during public health emergencies because of factors like socioeconomic status, household composition, minority status, or housing type and transportation. To help public health officials and emergency response planners meet the needs of socially vulnerable populations in emergency response and recovery efforts, the Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program (GRASP) created and maintains the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index. [CDC/ATSDR SVI](#)